(ग) कुछ सर्किलों में पर्याप्त आवेदन प्राप्त न होने और अन्य मामलों में तकनीकी व्यवहार्यता न होने या आवेदकों की ओर से विभागीय औपचारिकताएं पूरी करने में विलम्ब के कारण लक्ष्य पूरे नहीं किए जा सके।

(घ) सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन अनुसूचित जाति/अनु. जनजाति तथा शारीरिक रूप से विकलांग उन सभी को उदारतापूर्वक अलाट किए जाते हैं जो स्वैच्छा से इनका संचालन करने के लिए तैयार हों। अतः श्रेणीवार आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते ।

Operation of Long-Distance calls a by Foreign Companies

874. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to hand over the operation of long distance calls to foreign companies on an experimental basis;

(b) if so, whether any offer has been made by French Government for participation to cater to the special requirement of business community in the country;

(c) wheher the World Bank recommended the entry of foreign firms in telecom sector to improve the existing services;

(d) if so, what are the proposals under consideration to bring down the rates of long distance calls both in the STD segment and trunk call segment; and

(e) what are the details of the steps taken to reduce the charges of long distance calls ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (Shri Sukh Ram) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

(e) There are no specific steps taken to reduce the charges of long distance calls, but steps are taken to modernise and increase in reliability of the network.

Privatisation of Indian Telephone Industries

875. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has, recently, suggested some reform in the Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) and the Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) particularly pressing their privatisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (Shri Sukh Ram) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In respect of Both ITI & HCL the report has suggested that the Companies should be restructured in conjuction with a dilution of Public Sector Shareholding.

(c) The Government have already disinvested some of its shareholdings besides taking action to reconstitute the Boards ITI and HCL. Certain product diversification schemes as also steps for upgradation of technologies have been undertaken.

Work Force in Telecom Factory in Calcutta

876. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 per cent of total work-force to more or less are remaining idle in the Telecom Factory, Calcutta for want of jobs;

(b) whether the management could not foresee this kind of wastage nor it could

plan out the production programmes in the factory in advance;

(c) wheher jobs, have also been given out to the private parties on contract basis;

(d) whether Government have any plan to maximise the utilisation of the installed capacity and work force of the factory to avoid national wastage; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (Shri Sukh Ram) : (a) and (b) No Sir. However due to fast changing Telecom Technology some conventional items which were previously being manufactured in Telecom Factory Calcutta are no more in demand. The workforce rendered surplus (about 300) is being retrained and redeployed on new products.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Following new products are being inducted in Telecom Factory Calcutta during 1993-94.

(1) MDF for larger exchanges 512 port MDF & 1024 port MDF.

(2) Light weight Masts. 15 Meters and 40 Meters.

(3) Power plant 12-A.

(4) Light weight Tubular Towers.

Branch Post Offices in Orissa Circle

877. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will be Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices which have been approved to be opened in Orissa Circle in the current financial year;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats which do not have post offices in Orissa Circle; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide one post office at each Gram Panchayat in Orissa Circle as announced by Communications Minister at Rourkela in 1992 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (Shri Sukh Ram) : (a) A target of opening 35 Extra Departmental Branch Office has been fixed for Orissa Circle in the current financial year.

(b) The number of Gram Panchayats which do not have post offices in Orissa Circle is 516.

(c) It is the policy of the Government to provide one post office at each Gram Panchayat subject to availability of resources and approval of target by the Planning Commission.

उत्तर प्रदेश की ग्राम पंचायतों में दूरभाष तथा डाकघर सुविधायें

878. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि : (क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश में दूरभाष और डाकघरों की सुविधाएं प्राप्त ग्राम पंचायतों की जिलेवार संख्या कितनी है ;

(ख) प्रत्येक ग्राम पंचायत को डाकघर और दूरभाष सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने हेतु क्या समय-सीमा निर्धारित की गई है ;

(ग) उपरोक्त ग्राम पंचायतों में से कितनी ग्राम पंचायतों में डाकघरों से तार भेजने की सुविधा है और इस सुविधा के विस्तार की योजना क्या है ; और

(घ) राज्य के मुख्य शहरों में "स्पीड पोस्ट" सेवा उपलब्ध कराने के लिए जिलेवार कार्यक्रमों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?